have formed any groups to look into product development, suggest ways to improve airline service at the counters/airport/air punctuality etc.;

(b) if so, by when these groups are likely to submit their reports to Government;

(c) whether Government are also aware of the shortage of pilots/co-pilots as candidates available in the country prefer to work with foreign airlines; and

(d) if so, what action Government have taken to fill up the gap between demand and poor availability of pilots in the country?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. These are in-house Committees and their reports are not required to be submitted to the Government.

(c) and (d) At present there are sufficient number of professional pilot licence holders available in the country for employment as co-pilots. However, there is shortage of Commanders. Indian Airlines have commenced an accelerated time bound training programme to overcome the shortage of Commanders.

Unutilised financial assistance received from World Bank and ADB

2281. SHRI S. MUTHU MANI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) declined/threatened not to extend fresh financial assistance to India due to non-utilisation of funds already sanctioned by the above funding agencies;

(b) whether it is also a fact that as on 31st March, 1996 an amount of Rs. 57,000/- crore stands unutilised;

(c) what are the reasons for non-utilisation of funds already sanctioned by the said funding agencies; and

(d) the actions taken by Government to execute projects with the fund already sanctioned by the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank (ADB).

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The unutilised external assistance on Government and Non-Government account as on 31.3.96 is Rs. 61,477,30 crore (Provisional).

(c) and (d) Foreign assistance is largely project tied and therefore, the utilisation of the sanctioned aid for any project is spread over the project implementation period. As a result, there would be undrawn aid balance at any point of time reflecting aid in pipeline, which will be absorbed as project implementation takes place. At present, World Bank and Asian Development Bank adided projects are in varying stages of implementation.

However, slower than expected utilisation of external assistance are due to funds constraints, procurement and contracting delays, delays in land acquisition and other project specific issues. Ensuring adequate provisioning for externally aided projects, release of ACA as 100% additionality, advance release of ACA to the States, standardisation of bidding documents and streamlining of procurement procedures, disintermediating on flow of external aid to Central PSUs, Portfolio Rationalisation and setting up of Project Management Unit in Department of Economic Affairs are some of the steps taken by the Government to improve aid utilisation.

Commissioning of All India Radio, Visakhapatnam

2282 SHRI SATYANARAYANA DRONAMRAJU: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposal to commission Commercial Services of All India Radio, Visakhapatnam, which was promised during 1993-94 by the Government, was kept under cold storage;

(b) if not, the details thereof, and by when it is likely to be commissioned; and

(c) what is the estimated cost of the project?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) to (c) No, Sir. A 10 KW FM Transmitter with additional playback studio facility is being established at Visakhapatnam for introduction of a Commercial Channel at an estimated cost

of Rs. 385.55 lakhs. The scheme is expected to be technically ready by the end of current plan period i.e. 1996-97.

Amendment in the laws to book adulterators

2283. SHRI SATISH AGARWAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item appearing in the Hindu of 23rd June, 1996, under the caption "Laws inadequate to book adulterators" and

(b) if so, whether Government are considering amending laws to book criminals who mix poisonous ingredients in milk and other food products?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The existing provisions in the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954 and Rules made thereunder are adequate to book adulterators in food articles.

Population growth among the poor

2284. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH MANN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the rate of population growth among the poor section is higher as compared to the other sections of society;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government have taken into consideration this fact while formulating family planning programme and improve their living standard; and

(d) the rate of success achieved in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI): (a) Separate information on growth rate of population among poor are not available.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

Recommendation regarding interim relief to Government Servants

2285. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Fifth Pay Commission has recommended to Government third interim relief to government servants;

(b) if so, the details regarding the procedure adopted in this regard taking into consideration the plight of pensioners also; and

(c) the time by when it is likely to be paid?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) The Fifth Central Pay Commission in their Third Interim Report have made the folowing recommendations:—

(i) Grant of Interim Relief at the rate of 10% of the basic pay, subject to the minimum of Rs. 100 per month to all Central Government employees w.e.f. 1.4.96.

(ii) Grant of Interim Relief at the rate of 10% of the basic pension subject to the minimum of Rs. 100 per month to all Central Government Pensioners/ Family Pensioners w.e.f. 1.4.96.

(c) The recommendations of the Commission are under consideration of the Government.

NGOs receiving financial aid for Abolishing AIDS

2286. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of non-Governmental organisations, district-wise in the country particularly in the state of Punjab which are getting financial aid for abolishing AIDs disease;

(b) the amount given to the organisations for the purpose during the year 1995-96;

(c) whether it is a fact that the amount earmarked for the purpose is not utilised at all;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) what steps are being taken by Government for creating mass awarness on AIDs; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?